

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 02349 131749Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /114 W

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R 131706Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5696

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2349

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. THE MOLINA ADMINISTRATION, WHICH TAKES PRIDE IN ITS RECORD OF LABOR

PEACE, SUDDENLY FINDS ITSELF FACING ONE MAJOR STRIKE, ONE MINOR BUT POTENTIALLY SERIOUS STRIKE AND THE THREAT OF SEVERAL OTHERS. SOME 8000 MEMBERS OF THE POWERFUL SUTC, EL SALVADOR'S LARGEST CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' UNION, WALKED OFF THEIR JOBS ON JUNE 10. DESPITE ISOLATED ACTS OF MINOR VIOLENCE AND SOME LOOTING OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS ATTRIBUTED TO THE STRIKERS, THE STRIKE HAS BEEN PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY THUS FAR. STRIKERS OCCASIONALLY TRY TO BLOCK OFF TRAFFIC NEAR CONSTRUCTION SITES AND SLIGHTLY DAMAGED WITH ROCKS THE CAR OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER PASSING THE AREA. SECURITY FORCES ARE THUS FAR UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH STRIKERS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES OR OTHER LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT SAN SALVADOR.

2. AT ISSUE IS THE REFUSAL OF ABOUT 150 FIRMS BELONGING TO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CHAMBER TO RENEGOTIATE THE CURRENT COLLECTIVE CONTRACT WHICH EXPIRES JULY 15. ALREADY PRESSED BY THE SPIRALLING COST OF BUILDING MATERIALS, THE HOPE TO UNDERCUT THE BARGAINING POSITION OF SUTC LEADER ZALDIVAR, A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR WHO IS  
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02349 131749Z

PRESSING FOR A 40 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE AND A SEVEN HOUR DAY.

IN A JUNE 11 NEWSPAPER AD, THE CHAMBER DENOUNCED THE STRIKE AS ILLEGAL AND ASKED LABOR MINISTRY TO SETTLE THE JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE BETWEEN THE SUTC AND THE 800-MEMBER SINTRACOCOS, AFFILIATED WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF FIRMS INVOLVED, THE PROCESS OF CERTIFYING A BARGAINING AGENT COULD DRAG ON FOR MONTHS. SINCE THE CHAMBER, THE CGS AND TH

LABOR MINISTRY TRIED IN VAIN TO PREVENT ZALDIVAR'S REELECTION AS SUTC SECRETARY GENERAL, THE PRESENT TACTICS APPEAR TO BE PHASE TWO OF THEIR CAMPAIGN TO CLIP THE WINGS OF THE SUTC AND OF ZALDIVAR, A KEY FIGURE IN THE LABOR UNITY MOVEMENT. ZALDIVAR, PROBABLY THE MOST EXPERIENCED STRIKE LEADER IN EL SALVADOR, HAS DENOUNCED THE CHAMBER AND MIN LAB CHAVEZ AND URGED PRESIDENT MOLINA TO INTERVENE PERSONALLY IN THE MATTER. HE HAS ALSO BEGUN TO MARSHAL WIDESPREAD SUPPORT, INCLUDING THAT OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED LABOR AND STUDENT GROUPS.

3. ASPAS, AN AIRPLANE PILOTS' ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED WITH THE CGS, STRUCK SIX CROP-DUSTING FIRMS ON MAY 30 AFTER THEY REFUSED TO RAISE SALARIES BY 27 PERCENT (IT WOULD BE THEIR FIRST RAISE IN 12 YEARS). THE STRIKE WILL HAVE NO IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON COTTON CROP NOW BEING PLANTED BUT COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS IF IT LASTS FOUR TO SIX WEEKS.

4. STRIKES HAVE ALSO BEEN THREATENED AT THE NATIONAL WATER ADMINISTRATION (ANDA) AND BY DRIVERS OF ONE SAN SALVADOR BUS COMPANY.  
CAMPBELL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 13 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, ES, SUTC  
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